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January 8, 2003

TO: Members, Education Oversight Committee

FROM: Paul A. Horne, Jr.

RE: Report: Where Does South Carolina Rank in Education?

Over the last thirty years, Americans have become very interested in ranking education statistics among the various states. As accountability and the development of standards have proliferated over the last twenty years, the number of rankings has increased. Recently Morgan Quitno Press of Lawrence, Kansas issued the inaugural edition of *Education State Rankings, 2002-2003: PreK-12 Education in the 50 United States*. In the work the 50 states are ranked on over 400 areas based on numerous surveys and statistical compilations.

In this first edition, Morgan Quitno identifies the "Smartest State Award" based on 21 factors. The 21 factors include both positive (+) and negative (-) factors and are listed below, along with the national average, South Carolina average, and South Carolina's rank for each indicator. The source of each category is noted in a list of sources at the end of this report.

CATEGORY	+/- FACTOR	NATIONAL AVERAGE	SC AVERAGE	SC RANK
Public Elementary and Secondary School Revenue per \$1,000 Personal Income ¹	+	\$48.05	\$51.17	17
Per Pupil Public Elementary and Secondary School Current Expenditures ¹	+	\$6,835	\$6,114	34
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Current Expenditures used for Instruction ²	+	60.9%	58.8%	41
Public High School Graduation Rate ³	+	68.7%	52.0%	50
Percent of Population Graduated from High School ⁴	+	84.1%	83.0%	35
Percent of Public School Fourth Graders Proficient or Better in Mathematics ⁵	+	25%	18%	26
Percent of Public School Eighth Graders Proficient or Better in Mathematics ⁵	+	26%	18%	30
Percent of Public School Fourth Graders Proficient or Better in Reading ⁶	+	29%	22%	32
Percent of Public School Eighth Graders Proficient or Better in Reading ⁶	+	31%	22%	31
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary Teachers Who Received Training on How to Teach Students with IEP's ⁷	+	31%	17%	50

Average Salaries of Public School Classroom ⁸	+	\$43,335	\$37,938	30
Average Teacher Salary as a Percent of Average Annual Pay of All Workers ⁹	+	119.9%	130.3%	12
Percent of School-Age Population in Public Schools ¹⁰	+	87.6%	89.2%	19
High School Drop Out Rate ¹¹	-	4.8%	NA	NA
Percent of Public School Teachers Who Stated that Physical Conflicts Among Students Were a Serious Problem in Their Schools ⁷	-	4.8%	4.2%	22
Percent of Public School Teachers Who Reported Being Physically Attacked in the Past 12 Months ⁷	-	4.2%	5.3%	7
Percent of Public School Teachers Who Stated that Routine Duties and Paperwork Interfere with Their Jobs ⁷	-	71.2%	71.6%	22
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Staff Who are School District Administrators ¹²	-	1%	0.3%	48
Estimated Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools ³	-	15.9	14.1	38
Average Class Size in Public Elementary ⁷	-	21.2	17.9	48
Average Class Size in Public Secondary Schools ⁷	-	23.4	22.2	27

The rating for each state was determined through the following process:

“To determine the Smartest State rankings, the 21 factors were divided into two groups: those that are “negative” for which a high ranking would be considered bad for a state, and those that are “positive” for which a high ranking would be considered good for a state. Rates for each of the 21 factors were processed through a formula that measures how a state compares to the national average for a given category. The positive and negative nature of each factor was taken into account as part of the formula. Once these computations were made, the factors then were assigned equal weights. These weighted scores were then added together to get a state’s final score. This way, states are assessed based on how they stack up against the national average. The end result is that the farther below the national average a state’s education ranking is, the lower (and less smart) it ranks. The farther above the national average, the higher (and smarter) a state ranks.” (page iv).

Using this method, Morgan Quitno Press ranked the 50 states in this order:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Connecticut | 26. New York |
| 2. Vermont | 27. Colorado |
| 3. Montana | 28. Kentucky |
| 4. New Jersey | 29. California |
| 5. Maine | 30. Maryland |
| 6. Wisconsin | 31. Missouri |
| 7. Massachusetts | 32. Oklahoma |
| 8. Wyoming | 33. Illinois |
| 9. Indiana | 34. South Dakota |
| 10. Rhode Island | 35. Washington |
| 11. Iowa | 36. South Carolina |
| 12. Minnesota | 37. Virginia |
| 13. Nebraska | 38. Arkansas |
| 14. Kansas | 39. Tennessee |
| 15. Pennsylvania | 40. Georgia |
| 16. Texas | 41. Alabama |
| 17. Utah | 41. Ohio |
| 18. West Virginia | 43. Delaware |
| 19. New Hampshire | 44. Arizona |
| 20. Michigan | 45. Hawaii |
| 21. North Dakota | 46. Nevada |
| 22. Idaho | 47. Florida |
| 23. Oregon | 48. Mississippi |
| 24. North Carolina | 49. Louisiana |
| 25. Alaska | 50. New Mexico |

There are many areas ranked in the publication that are not included in the calculation resulting in the overall rating. The information is divided into several categories, including Finance, Districts and Facilities, Graduates and Achievements, and Safety and Discipline. Some of the rankings show South Carolina is improving its educational system, others indicate areas where improvement is needed.

Academic Achievement

Some selected rankings in the area of academic achievement are listed below.

CATEGORY	NATIONAL AVERAGE	SC AVERAGE	SC RANK
ACT Average Composite Score ¹³	20.8	19.2	49
Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores in 2002 ¹⁴	1020	981	49
Average Public School Fourth Grade Mathematics Score in 2000 ¹⁵	226	220	29
Average Public School Eighth Grade Mathematics Score in 2000 ¹⁵	274	266	30
Average Reading Score for Public School Fourth Graders in 1998 ⁶	215	210	29
Average Reading Score for Public School Eighth Graders in 1998 ⁶	261	255	30
Average Science Score for Public School Fourth Graders in 2000 ¹⁶	148	141	33
Percent of Public School Fourth Graders Proficient or Better in Science in 2000 ¹⁶	28%	20%	33
Average Science Score for Public School Eighth Graders in 2000 ¹⁶	149	142	32
Percent of Public School Eighth Graders Proficient or Better in Science in 2000 ¹⁶	30%	20%	33
Average Writing Score for Public School Eighth Graders in 1998 ¹⁷	148	140	30

Districts and Facilities

Below are selected rankings in the area of Districts and Facilities. South Carolina ranks in the top half of the states in many of these factors. One area of concern is the low number of schools offering special programs for students with discipline problems.

CATEGORY	NATIONAL AVERAGE	SC AVERAGE	SC RANK
Public Elementary and Secondary School Charter Schools in 2001 ¹⁸	1,993 total	8 total	24
Average Size of Public High Schools in 2001 ¹⁸	751	925	12
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools with Library Media Centers in 2000 ¹⁹	91.7%	96.9%	12
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Centers with an Internet Connection in 2000 ⁷	90.1%	98.2%	2
Percent of Public School Fourth Graders with Access to Computers All the Time in Classrooms in 2000 ²⁰	85%	94%	5
Percent of Public School Eighth Graders with Access to Computers All the Time in Classrooms in 2000 ²⁰	52%	70%	5
Percent of Public Elementary Schools Offering Talented/Gifted Programs in 2000 ⁷	71.8%	87.1%	10
Percent of Public Elementary Schools Offering Immersion in a Foreign Language Program in 2000 ⁷	11.1%	13.3%	12
Percent of Public Elementary Schools Offering Programs for Students with Discipline Problems in 2000 ⁷	43.7%	30.3%	47
Percent of Public Secondary Schools Offering Talented/Gifted Programs in 2000 ⁷	60.3%	61.7%	22
Percent of Public Secondary Schools Offering Immersion in a Foreign Language Program in 2000 ⁷	16.8%	15.2%	24
Percent of Public Secondary Schools Offering Programs for Students with Discipline Problems in 2000 ⁷	60.7%	42.9%	43
Percent of Public Secondary Schools Offering Advanced Placement (AP) Courses in 2000 ⁷	51.2%	77	1
Percent of Public Secondary Schools Offering Specialized Tech-Prep Programs in 2000 ⁷	41.4%	70.5%	2
Private Elementary and Secondary Schools in 2000 ²¹	27,233	326	27

Finance

There are many ways to rank the states in regard to education finance. Some of the selected rankings are below, with South Carolina ranking in the middle of the states in most areas.

CATEGORY	NATIONAL AVERAGE	SC AVERAGE	SC RANK
Estimated Per Capita Public Elementary and Secondary School Current Expenditures in 2002 ³	\$1,425	\$1,188	32
Percent Change in Per Pupil Public Elementary and Secondary School Current Expenditures: 1998 to 2002 (Adjusted for Inflation) ^{3,5}	10.2%	22.3%	6
U. S. Department of Education Grants for Improving Teacher Quality in 2002 ²²	\$2.85 bil	\$36.2 mil	26
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Federal Revenue Distributed Through States in 2000 ²	90.5%	98.9%	1
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Revenue from State Sources in 2000 ¹	49.8%	51.7%	25
Public Elementary and Secondary School Revenue from Local Sources in 2000 ¹	\$161 bil	\$1.89 bil	24
Per Capita Public Elementary and Secondary School Total Expenditures in 2000 ²	\$1,348	\$1,231	30
Percent of Public Elementary and Secondary School Current Expenditures Used for Employee Benefits in 2000 ²	16.5%	17.5%	17

Safety and Discipline

Safety and Discipline encompasses the areas of crime, drug and alcohol usage, amount of television watched daily, the amount of time spent on homework, and sexual activity, among others. This category contains many areas of concern for South Carolina.

CATEGORY	NATIONAL AVERAGE	SC AVERAGE	RANK
Percent of Public Schools Requiring Visitors to Sign In or Check In: 2000 ⁷	96.6%	98.2	26
Percent of Public Schools Conducting Drug Sweeps: 2000 ⁷	21%	39.5%	4
Percent of Public Schools with Daily Presence of Police or Security Personnel: 2000 ⁷	23.5%	36.8%	4
Percent of Public School Teachers who Stated that Robbery or Theft was a Serious Problem in Their School ⁷	2.4%	3.1%	10
Percent of Public School Teachers Who Stated that Student Misbehavior had Interfered with Their Teaching: 2000 ⁷	40.8%	41.3%	21
Percent of High School Students Who Felt Too Unsafe to Go to School: 2001 ²³	6.6%	11.1%	3
Percent of High School Students Who Smoke ²³	28.5%	27.6%	17
Percent of High School Students Who Drink Alcohol ²³	47.1%	44%	26
Percent of High School Students Who Were Offered, Sold, or Given an Illegal Drug on School Property: 2001 ²³	28.5%	28.4%	15
Percent of High School Students Sexually Active ²³	33.4%	39.7%	3
Teenage Birth Rate in 2000 ²⁴	48.5	60.6	11
Percent of High School Students Who Watched Three or More Hours of Television Daily: 2001 ²³	38.3%	48.2%	2
Percent of Public School Eighth Grade Students Who Watched Six or More Hours of Television Each day in 2000 ⁵	12%	20%	3
Percent of Public School Fourth Grade Students Who Watched Six or More Hours of Television Each day in 2000 ⁵	19%	23%	3
Percent of Public School Eighth Graders Who Reported Spending 30 or More Minutes on Math Homework Each day in 2000 ⁵	58%	55%	32
Percent of Public School Fourth Graders Who Reported Spending 30 or More Minutes on Math Homework Each day in 2000 ⁵	50%	51%	20

Summary

There are many ways to rank education and the various factors affecting education. The Morgan Quitno Press ranking provides a new perspective on the ranking process. In the area of student achievement, South Carolina ranks in the middle on most measures. In regards to the availability of technology in the classroom and availability of curricula programs like Advanced Placement courses in the high schools and foreign language instruction in elementary schools, South Carolina is a national leader. However, many of the safety and discipline issues, especially students feeling safe on high school campuses, are areas of concern.

Sources Used by Morgan Quitno Press

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Governments Division "Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances: 1999-2000."

² Morgan Quitno Press using data from U. S. Bureau of the Census, Governments Division "Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances: 1999-2000."

³ Morgan Quitno Press using data from U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "Early Estimates of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics: 2001-2002" (NCES 2002-311).

⁴ U. S. Bureau of Statistics "Educational Attainment in the United States: March 2000."

⁵ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics, 2001" (NCES 2002-130).

⁶ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "NAEP 1998: Reading Report Card for the Nation and the States" (NCES 1999-500).

⁷ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Schools and Staffing Survey, 1999-2000" (NCES 2002-313).

⁸ National Education Association, Washington, D. C., Rankings & Estimates (Copyright 2001 NEA), school year 2002-01.

⁹ Morgan Quitno Press using data from U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "Digest of Education Statistics, 2001" (NCES 2002-130) and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics "Average Annual Pay by State and Industry, 2000" (News Release USDL 01-295, September 11, 2001).

¹⁰ Morgan Quitno Press using data from U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "Public School Student, Staff & Graduate Counts by State: School Year 1999-2000 (NCES 2001-326R).

¹¹ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "Public High School Dropouts and Completers from the Common Core of Data" (NCES 2002-382, August 2002).

¹² U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "Public School Student, Staff and Graduate Counts by State: School Year 2000-01" (NCES 2002-348).

¹³ The American College Testing Program "ACT Average Composite Scores by State."

¹⁴ The College Board, New York, NY "Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores in 2002."

¹⁵ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "The Nation's Report Card, Mathematics 2000" (NCES 2001-517).

¹⁶ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics "The Nation's Report Card: State Science 2000 Reports" (NCES 2002-453).

¹⁷ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics “NAEP 1998 Writing: Report Card for the Nation and the States” (NCES 1999-462).

¹⁸ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics “Overview of Public Elementary & Secondary Schools & Districts: School year 2000-2001” (NCES 2002-356).

¹⁹ Morgan Quitno Press using data from U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, “Schools and Staffing Survey, 1999-2000” (NCES 2002-313).

²⁰ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics “National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2000 Mathematics Assessment.

²¹ U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics “Private School Universe Survey: 1999-2000” (NCES 2001-330).

²² U. S. Department of Education, Budget Office “FY 2003 State Tables for U. S. Department of Education.”

²³ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – U.S., 2001” (Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 51, No. SS-4, 6/28/01).

²⁴ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics “National Vital Statistics Reports” (Vol. 50, No. 5, February 12, 2002).